

**City of Milpitas**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**Telecommunications Commission**  
**March 20, 2006**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

Telecommunications Commissioner Vice Chair Niranjana Gupta called the meeting to order.

Members Present: N. Gupta, W. Lam, I. Munir,  
S. Bilgrami, S. Bansal, A. Ettinger

City Council: A. Gomez

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent: Albert Alcorn, P. Peterson, V. Mathur,  
R. Shaw, D. Gupta

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements:**

Staff reminded the members of the April 4, 2006 Commissioners Recognition event to be held in the city council chambers. Staff also reminded the members of the Mayor's State of the City Address on April 6. Finally, staff reminded the members of the annual Form 700 filings to be completed and the end of March.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S      S. Bansal / W. Lam                      Ayes:    6

**V. Approval of the Minutes  
February 27, 2006**

Motion to approve the minutes as amended.

M/S      W. Lam / I. Munir                      Ayes:    6

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

No comments were made for the record from the public.

**VII. Continued-New Business:**

**1. MetroFI Area Wi-Fi Proposal.**

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, presented a report on a second proposed citywide wireless Internet access program with MetroFI wireless.

MetroFI currently provides free ad-supported wireless Internet access in the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Mountain View and Santa Clara. MetroFI has total of 150,000 subscribers within 32 square miles and over 400 WiFi nodes in operation and are seeking to expand its services in the Milpitas area.

MetroFI delivers its services through hardware from SkyPilot through a combination of 2.4 GHz 802.11b/g and 5.8 GHz 802.11a wireless nodes. Approximately 20 to 30 of these nodes would service a one square mile area and provide connection speeds of 1 megabyte per second. MetroFI customers would also have the ability of customer-preferred equipment to help increase signal quality. MetroFI plans to deploy its wireless Internet services primarily in the residential area of Milpitas. Information Services Dept. would redeploy its Tropos nodes in the industrial areas of the city to aid in the coverage for the public safety.

The MetroFI plan would compliment the Earthlink proposal that was reviewed by the commission at its February meeting. The proposal would be for a five-year agreement for use of pole tops within the city of Milpitas and to access city buildings and infrastructure to support the MetroFI wireless network.

Staff recommended to the commission to consider developing a wireless policy document that would address the needs and concerns of deploying a wireless Internet network in the Milpitas area.

Lee Hambro, MetroFI's director of operations, reported that the company would be providing free wireless Internet access to its network would be available to anyone with home wireless access equipment. MetroFI also offers a paid service for additional support services. MetroFI provides a shared bandwidth to all its wireless users. MetroFI also provides security options as part of its services.

The Commission asked of MetroFI's home wireless customer preferred equipment. Mr. Hambro noted that MetroFI has a list of "qualified" equipment that the user is directed to review on the company's website. Consumers can then purchase their own equipment from retail providers to support a home wireless network.

Commissioner Ettinger asked of the throughput of the network speeds for the paid service versus the free Internet option. Mr. Hambro noted that the paid services offer the ability to disable advertisements. Otherwise, the network speeds are based on the bandwidth capacity.

Commissioner Bansal noted that the proposed agreement should have clauses that would allow for the city to discontinue the service if it is no longer a feasible operation. Mr. Hambro noted that it is the goal of MetroFI's wireless product to be commercially successful. He encourages the commission members to test drive the MetroFI network in those aforementioned cities.

Staff noted MetroFI is offering a per pole fee to use the city's light pole or have a provider use city facility that would be allowable for the providers for use of the public right-of-way. Non-use agreement language is being reviewed by the city attorney's office is currently reviewing the agreement. Staff is attempting to negotiate and agreement for longer service with the provided and a shorter agreement in addressing the use of city facilities.

Mr. Marion noted that the economic development commission is also working with the MetroFI in gathering interested local companies to advertise on their website.

MetroFI hopes to have the wireless network installed and integrated within a six month to a one-year period once the agreement has been approved by the city. The deployment would cover primarily in the residential areas of Milpitas. A 90-day pilot project would be done prior to a full deployment of the service in Milpitas. MetroFI intends to advertise its wireless product to all local media in Milpitas to announce it is availability in the area.

Mr. Marion noted that the proposal would be reviewed by the city attorney's and returned back to the commission for final review at its next meeting. Staff noted that it would review language regarding service provisions in Milpitas.

Vice Chair N. Gupta asked of the development of a subcommittee to address the policy document. Staff noted that the city attorney's office suggested two options in developing a contract agreement. Exclusive sole provider agreement or non-exclusive agreement similar to the cable television provider.

Motion to recommend staff to move forward in resolving the contact agreement with MetroFI and recommend to the commission and City Council. Consider the development of a WiFi policy statement addressing the city's needs relating to wireless Internet deployment in the city.

M/S S. Banal/ W. Lam

Ayes: 6

## 2. Telecom Work Experience Document.

Vice Chair N. Gupta noted that the work experience document very helpful to the overall commissioners understand of each other's professional work. He added that it would be necessary for everyone to provide information to the overall document. The commissioners concurred and those members would provide information. He would recommend sending the information to staff for updating.

Motion to note receipt and file.

### 3. PEG Studio Update Report.

Mr. Marion updated the commission on the planning work to the city hall public access studio. Staff reported that additional planning and layout work has been done to the facility. Several meetings with the city's building staff, the city's chief building official and fire planning staff addressed the layout design and wall construction concerns with the use of the facility. It was determined that the repositioning of a fire sprinkler head would be required for the room, location of two air conditioning exhaust ducts and addressing noise concerns for an adjoining door to the studio. Corrective recommendations were made by the building and fire planning staff and have been noted for processing for the final permitting phase. Staff notes that by late April it hopes to have the construction permits issued. A construction contractor is ready to do work to the studio and have the fire sprinkler relocated as recommended by the building and fire planning staff.

Staff requested that following web address would be considered [www.milpitastv.org](http://www.milpitastv.org). The preceding web addresses would be redirected to the milpitastv.org web address.

Vice Chair N. Gupta asked would there be temporary staff to help establish the operation of the cable studio. Staff noted it would provide short-term assistance to the cable access studio but in the long run rely more on volunteers from the Milpitas community to help operate the studio on a day-to-day basis.

Commissioner Lam asked of the slanted build to the wall. Staff noted that it was access requirement for wheelchair mobility. Staff also added that the studio would also be used for editing work as well as studio video production.

Motion to note receipt and file.

### 4. February 2006 I.S. Month Report.

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, reiterated the work being done to complete the working agreements with Earthlink and MetroFI.

Staff also noted of the ongoing work to complete the city's public access studio. Information Service staff is also working with the city's construction staff for the Main street construction work for the new Milpitas library project for data and communications needs.

Commissioner Munir asked of Internet access via fiber for the business community in Milpitas. Mr. Marion noted that there are numerous commercial fiber strands available to businesses interested locating in Milpitas. Staff has handled several inquiries from commercial companies requested information to access fiber in Milpitas streets. The overall advantage for any company seeking access the fiber in Milpitas is the low construction cost to bringing the fiber to a building location. Information Services recently brought fiber into its data center in February to upgrade the city's Internet throughput speeds.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S W. Lam / A. Ettinger Ayes: 6

#### 5. Round Table Discussion

Staff reiterated a Milpitas resident's request to institute a senior discount program for cable television services from Comcast. Staff noted such discount programs are no longer being offered and would be not be feasible to consumers overall. Milpitas has not participated in such a program and is no longer being offered as an option.

Mr. Marion noted that cities had the ability to regulate only the basic cable rate. If the cable operator's basic rate is bellow that FCC basic rate then the ability to regulate is no longer an option. Mr. Marion added that most discount programs that have been held over from previous cable television franchises and are no longer being renewed.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S W. Lam / S. Bansal Ayes: 6

#### VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

The Commission adjourned the meeting to Monday, April 17, 2006.

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